

REMARKS

This amendment is offered in reply to the office action of March 27, 2008. A petition and fee for a three (3) month time extension are enclosed, making this response due on September 27, 2008.

In paragraph 1 of the office action, claims 1-19 and 23-25 are withdrawn. Applicants have canceled these withdrawn claims by this amendment.

Claim 22 has been canceled also.

In paragraph 4 of the office action, claims 20-23 are rejected under 35 USC 102(b) as anticipated by, or obvious in view of US 4,835,011.

Applicants have amended claim 20 to distinguish over the '011 patent.

In particular, pending claim 1 recites a coated substrate comprising a superalloy substrate and a chemically vapor deposited aluminide diffusion coating thereon including at a coating region or throughout the coating a distribution of a reactive element comprising Hf and/or Zr.

In contrast, the cited US '011 patent expressly teaches a yttrium-enriched pack-formed aluminide coating and fails to teach or suggest inclusion of Hf and/or Zr distributed in the coating or a region thereof.

Reconsideration of the Section 102(b) rejection of pending claims 20 and 21 is requested as a result.

In paragraph 6 of the office action, claims 20-22 are rejected under the doctrine of obviousness type double patenting in view of claims 1, 2 and 13 of US 6,129,991.

This rejection is believed to be in error. The cited '991 patent involves a duplex coating having a first inner layer comprising an MCrAlY alloy and a second layer that is an outwardly grown aluminide diffusion coating deposited on the MCrAlY alloy coating. Claims 1, 2 and 13 teach such a duplex coating and claim 13 relates to a reactive element that is present in the inner MCrAlY alloy coating and not the outer aluminide diffusion coating in a manner that does not render the pending claims 20 and 21 obvious.

Reconsideration of the obviousness-type double patenting rejection is requested.

In paragraph 7 of the office action, claims 20-22 are rejected under the doctrine of obviousness type double patenting in view of claims 1, 2, 7 and 8 of US 5,989,733.

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This rejection is believed to be in error in that claims 1, 2, 7 and 8 of the cited '733 patent disclose to provide Al and Si and Hf as a reactive element in a Pt-modified (platinum-modified) aluminide diffusion coating. Pending claims 20 and 21 involve a chemically vapor deposited aluminide diffusion coating that includes at a coating region or throughout the coating a distribution of Hf and/or Zr, which coating is not suggested by claims 1, 2, 7, and 8 of the '733 patent.

Reconsideration of the obviousness-type double patenting rejection is requested.

Applicants have added new claim 26. Claim 26 involves a coated substrate comprising a superalloy substrate and an aluminide diffusion coating thereon including a distribution of Hf at a coating region or throughout the coating.

Applicants also have added new claim 27. Claim 27 involves a coated substrate comprising a superalloy substrate and an aluminide diffusion coating thereon including a distribution of Zr at a coating region or throughout the coating.

New claims 26-27 are believed to be allowable also.

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The Commissioner is authorized to charge any fee for new claims 26-27 to my deposit account No. 20-1124, although no additional fee is believed to be due.

Applicants request allowance of the pending claims.

Respectfully submitted,



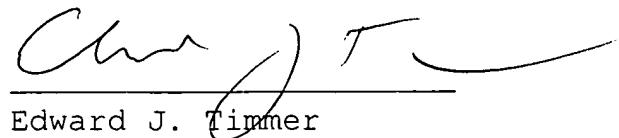
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CERTIFICATE OF MAILING

I hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited with the United States Postal Service under 37 CFR 1.8 as first class mail in an envelope addressed to: Commissioner For Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450 on September 23, 2008.



Edward J. Timmer